



**CAL FIRE - Office of the State Fire Marshal
Pipeline Safety Division
Information Bulletin**

Updated: June 19, 2020

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Information bulletin dated: January 24, 1997

**PIPELINE STATUS TERMINOLOGY
(Active/Out-of-Service Deferment/Abandoned)**

This information bulletin updates regulatory and reporting terminology utilized by the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM). This update also provides guidance on requesting deferrals of State and federal pipeline maintenance and inspection requirements on Out-of-Service pipelines.

On August 11, 2016, the U.S. Department of Transportation - Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) issued Advisory Bulletin (ADB 2016-0075) – “Pipeline Safety: Clarification of Terms Relating to Pipeline Operational Status” to all owners and operators of Hazardous Liquid and Carbon Dioxide pipelines to clarify the regulatory requirements that may vary depending on the operational status of a pipeline. PHMSA only defines pipelines as either “Active” or “Abandoned”; therefore, in order to comply with federal regulations and interpretations, the OSFM classifies all Out-of-Service pipelines as “Active”.

ACTIVE PIPELINE means a pipeline or pipeline segment which is in service whether or not the pipeline is fully operational. This includes pipelines which may have been utilized to transport hazardous liquids or carbon dioxide but are currently inactive, idle or designated Out-of-Service by OSFM. Active pipelines must comply with all applicable State and federal laws and regulations pertaining to pipeline safety (e.g., Chapter 5.5 of the California Government Code and Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (49 C.F.R.) Part 195, etc.). Annual OSFM fees are applicable on Active pipelines. Each Active pipeline segment (whether in use or not) must be reported as jurisdictional to OSFM on the Annual Pipeline Operator Report (APOR). Mileages reported on the PHMSA 7000-1.1 form must include Active pipeline miles (whether in use or not).

OUT-OF-SERVICE PIPELINE DEFERMENTS. PHMSA recognized in the ADB-2016-0075 that a purged pipeline presents different risks, and different regulatory treatment may be appropriate. Based on the information from ADB-2016-0075, the OSFM will consider deferment of certain activities that are impractical on a pipeline or pipeline segment which has been effectively purged and cleaned of all hazardous liquids, and blinded or otherwise isolated from all sources of the transported liquid. The operator must submit to the OSFM and the OSFM must approve a written plan describing the process to be used. The OSFM will acknowledge the deferral activities with an official correspondence letter. The Out-of-Service pipeline is subject to annual pipeline user fees. All deferred activities must be completed prior to, or as part of, any later return to service. All deferred assessments and any known required repair conditions that have not already been repaired or remediated must be completed as part of any later return of the subject line to service. An inspection of the pipeline and pipeline records will be conducted by OSFM to determine compliance with State and Federal pipeline safety regulations.

ABANDONED PIPELINE means a pipeline or pipeline segment which has been purged, sealed and disconnected from all sources of the transported liquid. An Abandoned pipeline cannot be returned to hazardous liquid service. Before a pipeline can have its status changed from Active to Abandoned, the operator must submit records showing that the subject pipeline meets the process and abandonment requirements in accordance with 49 C.F.R. § 195.402(c)(10) to the OSFM. The OSFM will review the operating records, conduct field inspections to verify the status of subject pipeline, and acknowledge the abandonment status in writing. Upon notification from the OSFM is granted in writing, the Abandoned pipeline becomes non-jurisdictional to the OSFM. Approval of the abandonment plan or abandonment status by the OSFM does not affect or negate any permit or approval requirement of any other applicable agencies. The OSFM fees are not applicable for Abandoned pipelines. In addition, Abandoned pipelines do not have to be reported to the OSFM or the APOR. However, the OSFM may maintain the data on these pipelines collected during the time the pipelines were classified as Active.

Questions regarding the issue of pipeline status may be directed to OSFM Pipeline Safety Division by telephoning (562) 497-0350 or sending an email to PipelineNotification@fire.ca.gov. All written requests to change the status of a pipeline must be addressed to:

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Pipeline Safety Division
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